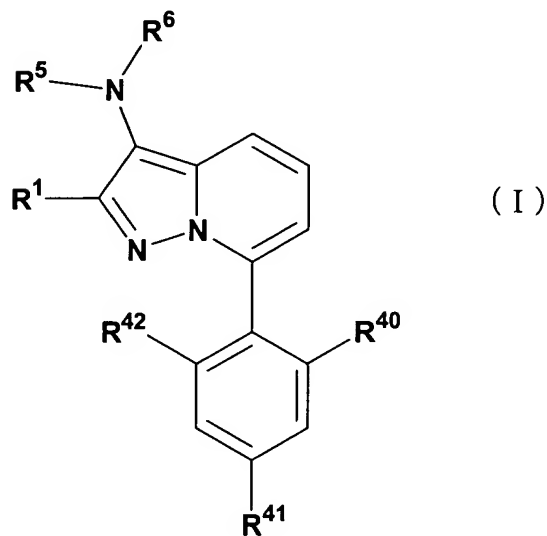


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled).

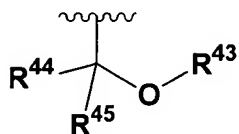
2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~according to claim 1, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing,~~ **represented by the formula:**



**[wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a group represented by the formula -G<sup>1z</sup>-R<sup>1z</sup> (wherein G<sup>1z</sup> is a single bond, oxygen or sulfur, and R<sup>1z</sup> is methyl or ethyl) or methoxymethyl;**

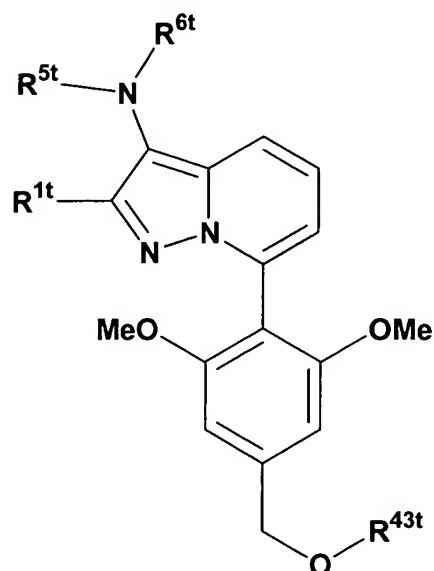
**R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently hydrogen, *t*-butoxycarbonyl or a group represented by the formula -X<sup>6b</sup>-X<sup>7b</sup> (wherein X<sup>6b</sup> is methylene and X<sup>7b</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, tetrahydropyran-yl or tetrahydrofuran-yl); and** wherein R<sup>40</sup> and R<sup>42</sup> are each independently C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, and R<sup>41</sup> is a group represented by the formula:



(wherein R<sup>44</sup> and R<sup>45</sup> are each independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and R<sup>43</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from Substituent Group B below,

wherein Substituent Group B is the group consisting of fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, cyano, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl, C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl, tetrahydropyran-yl and tetrahydrofuran-yl),  
a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing.

4. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



[wherein R<sup>5t</sup> and R<sup>6t</sup> are each independently cyclopropylmethyl, (4-tetrahydropyranyl)methyl, (3-tetrahydrofuranyl)methyl or (2-tetrahydrofuranyl)methyl;

R<sup>1t</sup> is methoxy, methylthio, methyl, ethyl or methoxymethyl; and

R<sup>43t</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl],

a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing.

5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein R<sup>43t</sup> is methyl.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein R<sup>1t</sup> is methoxy, methylthio or ethyl.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein R<sup>5t</sup> is cyclopropylmethyl or (4-tetrahydropyranyl)methyl.

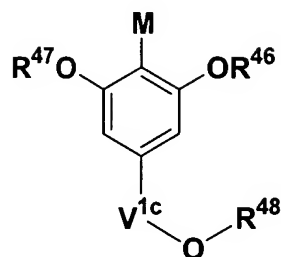
8. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein R<sup>5t</sup> is (4-tetrahydropyranyl)methyl.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein R<sup>5t</sup> is (4-tetrahydropyranyl)methyl, and R<sup>6t</sup> is cyclopropylmethyl.

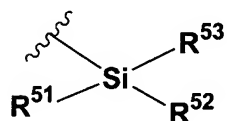
10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim ~~1~~, 3, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein the compound is *N*-cyclopropylmethyl-*N*-7-[2,6-dimethoxy-4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]-2-ethylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-3-yl-*N*-tetrahydro-2*H*-4-pyranylmethylamine, *N*-cyclopropylmethyl-*N*-7-[4-(ethoxymethyl)-2,6-dimethoxyphenyl]-2-ethylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-3-yl-*N*-tetrahydro-2*H*-4-pyranylmethylamine or *N*-cyclopropylmethyl-*N*-[7-[2,6-dimethoxy-4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]-2-(methylsulfanyl)pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-3-yl]-*N*-tetrahydro-2*H*-4-pyranylmethylamine.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim ~~1~~, 3, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein the compound is *N*-cyclopropylmethyl-*N*-7-[2,6-dimethoxy-4-(methoxymethyl)phenyl]-2-ethylpyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridin-3-yl-*N*-tetrahydro-2*H*-4-pyranylmethylamine.

12. (Withdrawn) A compound (except (i) 4-(hydroxymethyl)-2,6-dimethoxyphenylboric acid and (ii) 4-(((*t*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)methyl)-2,6-dimethoxyphenylboric acid), represented by the formula:



[wherein  $R^{48}$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from Substituent Group B below, benzyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from Substituent Group B below, 2-tetrahydropyranyl or a group represented by the formula:

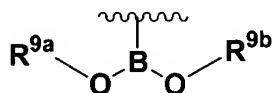


(wherein  $R^{51}$ ,  $R^{52}$  and  $R^{53}$  are each independently  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or phenyl);

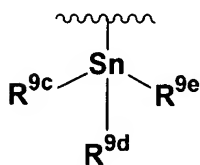
$R^{46}$  and  $R^{47}$  are each independently  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;

$V^{1c}$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkylene;

M is a group represented by the formula:



(wherein  $R^{9a}$  and  $R^{9b}$  are each independently hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, where  $R^{9a}$  and  $R^{9b}$  may bond together to form 1,2-ethylene, 1,3-propylene or 2,3-dimethyl-butan-2,3-diyl), or a group represented by the formula:



(wherein  $R^{9c}$ ,  $R^{9d}$  and  $R^{9e}$  are each independently  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl); and

Substituent Group B is the group consisting of fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, cyano,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidyl, morpholinyl,  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl, tetrahydropyranyl and tetrahydrofuran],  
a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing.

13. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 12, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein  $R^{46}$  and  $R^{47}$  are methyl, and  $V^{1c}$  is methylene.

14. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 12, a salt thereof or a hydrate of the foregoing, wherein  $R^{46}$  and  $R^{47}$  are methyl,  $V^{1c}$  is methylene, and  $R^{48}$  is methyl.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor antagonist comprising a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) 1 receptor antagonist comprising a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic agent for a disease associated with corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF), comprising a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic agent for depression, a depressive symptom, mania, anxiety, general anxiety disorder, panic disorder, phobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, Tourette's syndrome, autism, affective disorder, dysthymia, bipolar disorder, cyclothymic personality or schizophrenia, comprising a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

19. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic agent for peptic ulcer, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, diarrhea, constipation, postoperative ileus, stress-associated gastrointestinal disorder or nervous vomiting, comprising a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

20. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic method for a disease associated with corticotropin releasing factor (CRF), comprising administration of a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

21. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic method for depression, a depressive symptom, mania, anxiety, general anxiety disorder, panic disorder, phobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, Tourette's syndrome, autism, affective disorder, dysthymia, bipolar disorder, cyclothymic personality or schizophrenia, comprising administration of a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A therapeutic or prophylactic method for peptic ulcer, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, diarrhea, constipation, postoperative ileus, stress-associated gastrointestinal disorder or nervous vomiting, comprising administration of a compound according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 3 or a salt thereof.